



PRESS RELEASE

City of Akron 166 S. High Street Akron, Ohio 44308
(330)-375-2345 Fax:(330)- 375-2468
Web: www.akronohio.gov

For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephanie York, Director of Communications
syork@akronohio.gov or 330-375-2345 (w) / 330-289-1467 (c)

City of Akron begins Weekly Concerts at Lock 4 Stage July 18 ***LockBottom Blues & Jazz Club adds Gospel to the Menu***

July 16, 2012 (Akron, Ohio) - Downtown Akron will again swing with the sounds of jazz and blues when the City opens its Lock 4 stage this Wednesday, with free outdoor concerts every Wednesday night this Summer.

New to Lock 4 this year is the addition of gospel ensembles performing free on selected Sunday nights during the Summer.

Lock 4 Concert-goers will also have the chance to view a new mural devoted to American jazz musicians, that is being painted on the wall of the Akron Civic Theatre by artist Michael Ayers.

"The response we have received to Lock 4 concerts over the past two years has been overwhelming," says Dave Lieberth, Akron's Deputy Mayor. "Lock 4 is a beautiful setting, the food is great, and people love the music."

The ***LockBottom Blues & Jazz Club*** opens with local jazz artists the Frankie Starr Band at 7pm, Wednesday, July 18. Other groups scheduled for 7pm concerts are:

July 25:	The Stingers
August 1:	Wanda Hunt
August 8:	Horns & Things
August 15:	The Jack Schantz Sextet
August 22:	Peggy Coyle Trio
August 29:	Dan Wilson Group
Sept. 5:	Blue Lunch

“This is exciting space in Downtown,” says Lieberth. “The rushing water of the canal creates multiple water falls through Lock 4 that along with the historic brick facades of some of the oldest buildings in the city give the space a distinctly urban feel.”

Urban Eats – the café at Musica with manager Elizabeth Tyran and Chef Jason Scala – will provide food on Wednesday nights to match the music.

Gospel Sundays

Beginning Sunday, July 29, Lock 4 will sponsor four free “Gospel Sundays” at Lock 4. Performance time is 5pm – 7pm Sundays, with the following vocal groups scheduled:

July 29	Exalting Him Coir
August 19	Henry Dunn’s Road to Glory on the Road
August 26	The House of the Lord Choir
Sept. 2	Mount Calvary Baptist Church Choir

Muralist Adds Color and Pizzazz to Jazz

Artist Michael Ayers, who created murals for Ohio Brewing Company, and has worked at the Akron *Beacon Journal* is painting a larger-than-life mural on the wall of the Akron Civic Theater to honor American jazz artists through the ages.

The Leadership Akron Class 27 (2010-2011) was so enamored of the idea that the entire group of 34 class members contributed funds to support the artwork, which has also been supported by the Kenneth L. Calhoun Charitable Trust, KeyBank, Trustee, sponsor of Lock 4 concerts.

Ayers began his work July 1, and has been assisted by Coon Caulking which has donated equipment to lift the artist into the air to paint the mural.

Lock 4

Lock 4 is “down under” Bowery Street, adjacent to the city’s popular concert venue Lock 3, and is connected directly to the Cascade Parking Garage, which provides direct access to Lock 4 from level two (orange). Walkways from Bowery Street and from Lock 3 are other entrances to the event.

Admission to Lock 4 concerts is free, and sponsored by the City of Akron with support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, as well as the Kenneth L. Calhoun Charitable Trust, KeyBank, Trustee.

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